

## Prayer for Strength.

SELECTED FOR BRO. L. C. STIFLER, BY HIS SISTER  
E. R. STIFLER.

Father, before Thy footstool kneeling,  
Once more my heart goes up to Thee,  
For aid, for strength, to Thee appealing,  
Though who alone can'st succor me.

Hear me! for heart and flesh are failing,  
My spirit yielding in the strife;  
And anguish wild as unavailing,  
Sweeps in a flood across my life.

Help me to stern the tide of sorrow;  
Help me to bear Thy chastening rod;  
Give me endurance; let me borrow  
Strength from Thy promise, O my God!

Not mine the grief which words may lighten:  
Not mine the tears of common woe;  
The pang with which my heart-strings tighten,  
Only the All-seeing one may know.

And I am weak, my feeble spirit  
Shrinks from life's task in wild dismay:  
Let not that Thou that task wouldst spare it.  
My Father, do I dare to pray.

Into my soul Thy might infusing,  
Strengthening my spirit by Thine own;  
Help me all other aid refreshing,  
To cling to Thee, and Thee alone.

And oh! in my exceeding weakness,  
Make Thy strength perfect; Thou art strong:  
Aid me to do Thy will with meekness,—  
Thou to whom all my powers belong.

Oh! let me feel that Thou art near me;  
Close to Thy side, I shall not fear:  
Hear me O strength of Israel, hear me;  
Sustain and aid! in mercy hear.

## Temptations.

"Yield not to temptations for yielding is sin.  
Each victory will help you some other to win;  
Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue,  
Look ever to Jesus he will carry you through."

The above is what a poet says, and this here under is what an inspired apostle writes: "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into temptations knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." Then if we are tempted again and again and we overcome these temptations, we are expected then to be purified of much of the dross, that gathers about us as the moss does about the rock.

Before wheat is separated from the chaff there must be wind, before rain there must be clouds, before light there must be darkness, before the summer's sultry air is purified of its gases there must be lightning and before the ore of silver and gold is reduced to bullion there must be intense heat. In order that we may be purified of all worldliness and wickedness there must be temptations. It could not be known if a man were honest if he never could have any thing to steal; neither could it be known if we are Christians if we never were tempted or tried.

What is the promise to those who overcome temptations? Here is what John of Revelations says: "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life. He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations. He that overcometh the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God; and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem. He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death."

Take for example a servant whom you expect to employ. If you desire to know of his veracity integrity and obedience, you will perhaps at the beginning of servitude place an article of some value at or near his expected approach, while you withdraw and wait the result. If he should steal the articles you would have no use for that servant, but if that servant were honest and truthful and obeyed all your biddings, then you would have

reasons to employ him. We are all servants of God or Satan, and if we are good obedient servants of God, He will ultimately take us to His home; but if we are disobedient, dishonest, untruthful or any sinfulness exists about us, we cannot expect God to permit us to enter His abode. For if such could possibly enter into God's eternal home, they certainly would be stealing the crowns from off the angels' heads—for certainly they could have none except by stealth—while others would be telling all kinds of falsehoods of their pretended goodness while on earth and which should entitle them too much merit: and by such chaos heaven would be turned into a modified hell.

Therefore God knows what is best for us and He endeavors to purify us by His revealed word as well as by His chastening powers from everything that has any tendency to worldliness, wickedness and wantonness.

We can be assured of one fact and that is, God will never direct us wrong and it does not matter how bitter the chastening love may appear. We are so much like a child when first it sees something attractive to its eye: it will run after and grab at almost anything that has a pleasing appearance, whether it be hurtful and even deadly to the child, it seems to care not, and the parents have to be continually watching its actions to keep it from harm and even death.

Our heavenly Father has the same care of us. He is continually watching and snatching us from forbidden paths and from deep and yawning chasms to keep us from rushing on to eternal damnation.

Is it not a strange fact that many poor souls are daily perishing for the want of Christ in a Christian land? and is it not more strange that many poor souls who are members of the church are daily perishing for the want of more Christianity?

A few months ago I read an account of a lady perishing at sea for the want of water. I thought what, can it be that one who is surrounded by water and has water to bear her on her way could perish for the want of water! but it is said to be a fact that she did perish for the want of fresh water. Then the thought came to me, can it be that men and women are daily perishing for the want of Christianity when they live in a Christian land surrounded by Christian men and women?

Yes it is a fact, a sad fact, that souls are daily perishing for their neglect to take the water of life on board their barque to cross the sea of death. But perhaps some of these poor souls see so little Christianity among so many Christian professors, that they despair of Christian pretensions. Many of us may have our Christianity locked up in our hearts, if such can be; while others may have it on the body, in the hand and on the tongue, if such can be; but we should not take either of these extremes but both and have our Christianity internally, externally and we will then have it eternally.

G. A. COPP.

Fisher's Hill, Va.

## Religion.

BY SUSAN FRAME.

Religion is a happy thing to practice; but a sad thing to neglect. If we seriously consider what religion is, we will find the saying of the wise King Solomon to be true: Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace. Blessed be God for that religion that has power to enlighten the darkest hours of life, and give us strength for all the trials we are called on to pass through. The love of God in our heart is the fountain from whence three streams flow; devotion. Self-government and benevolence. What does religion profess? Peace to all mankind. Its greatest ornament is charity; that charity which thinketh no evil, is not easily provoked, rejoiceth not in iniquity. Its kingdom is not of this world. It is too high to envy the proud, and too meek to despise the humblest. The gospel creed is to do justice and love mercy and walk humbly before God. Show me the Christian who is always ready to help the needy, who visits the widow and orphan and keeps themselves unspotted from the world. Charity covers a multitude of sins, but there are more ways than one of showing kindness. We believe the giving of money and other helps are often

of very great moment, but there is another kind of charity which is cheaper and which we should not be forgetful of, lest we should say, thank God we are not as other men. Let us not turn the person off who in the hour of temptation yielded to sin. Bear with him; give him another trial; while we condemn his misstep, encouraging him to live honestly in the future. Charity makes due allowance for poor, frail humanity. We ought to pray like David of old: Lord teach me to know mine end and the measure of my days, what it is, that I may know how frail I am. A gentle word, a kind look, an encouraging smile, may save a human being from eternal ruin. Christ taught us the principle of justice and the great secret of all harmony and happiness on earth, as in heaven, is love. Till we arrive at that point of his system, we are unacquainted with Christianity.

There is only one path which is safe, it is that which Jesus marked out in his word for us. Let us study it carefully and prayerfully if we ever have gone wrong it will bring us right, and keep us right.

Oh, brethren and sisters let us lay aside all bitterness and evil-speaking and everything that is contrary to Christ's will and have the gospel charity for one another; for without it, he can never enter in through the gate into the city nor have a right to the tree of life.

Sweet Home, Ind.

## Save the Minutes.

BY JAS. W. KOONTZ.

In sketching a few points upon this subject, I do not mean that the minutes of our Annual Meeting should be saved, but that the minutes of time lost as we sojourn through life should be saved. We are commanded in the word of God to walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as the wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. There is a great amount of time which can never be redeemed, lost by an idle life. God created man for a wise and a noble purpose, and if we allow ourselves to indulge in idleness we will not be answering the design of our creation. Instead of spending the minutes as they come and go in idleness, we should spend them in having our thoughts and mind centered upon heaven and heavenly things. Life is short and it behooves us to devote every minute of time possible in the service of the Lord.

The saving of time is a duty for both saint and sinner. Those who are yet standing out of Christ, do not realize the golden hours that they are allowing to pass by them unnoticed. There are many who have been permitted to live long lives, who, never, until they have been brought down upon the bed of affliction, and are made to feel that their days are almost numbered, realized the value of time. Procrastination which is the thief of time, often brings forth cases of this kind. But those who enlist under the blood-stained banner of King Emanuel, while young will not have this terrible ordeal to pass through. But as they journey down the stream of time, following the teachings of Christ, and as they grow into riper years, they can then take a retrospective view of their past life and rejoice that they have not spent it in idleness, but in the service of the Lord.

Now I say to one and all, improve the time, save the minutes, and when we come before that great Judge, who will judge the world in righteousness, he will say, well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord.

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Life is a quarry, out of which we are to mould and chisel and complete a character.

An earnest Christian is always peculiar and half incomprehensible to the world. He has something

A man's heart gets cold if he does not keep it warm by living in it, and a censorious man is one who ordinarily lives out of his own heart.

The tree of peace strikes its roots into the crevices of the everlasting Rock. It grows securely from that Rock, and casts out its cool shadow in the sunshine, and makes sweet music in the storm, and is to the believer as the shadow of a great rock and fruit of refreshments in a weary and parched land.—Dr. Cumming.